Home Health Agency Update

North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Health Facilities

August 2001

Welcome to this edition of *Home Health Agency Update*, a newsletter published by
the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities.
Administrators, please share this newsletter with your home health agency staff.

Name Change

On June 14, 2001, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a new name for the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) – the federal agency that runs the Medicare and joint federal-state Medicaid programs. HCFA will now be called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Three new centers will comprise CMS: the Center for Medicare Management, the Center for Beneficiary Choices, and the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO).

OASIS

Scheduled Downtime for State Systems

Beginning April 2001, the QIES Technical Support Office implemented scheduled downtime. This downtime will occur on the third Tuesday of each month from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. CST or 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. MST. During this time period users will **not** be able to request OBQM reports or do submissions.

OASIS: What's New (http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/hhnew.htm)

- Final data specification (Version 1.20 Revision 1) for the spring update to OASIS state systems is now available (April 9, 2001).

- Category #14, Correction Policy, has been added to the questions and answers page and a new question and answer (number 11) has been added to Category 1, OASIS Applicability (April 23, 2001).

- Instructions for implementing the automated correction policy are now available (April 23, 2001).

- For your convenience, CMS (formerly HCFA) posted the complete set of home health agency interpretive guidelines, which includes current regulations. Guidance and deficiency tag references (May 14, 2001).

- Step-by-step instructions for making key field changes in HAVEN 5.0 (May 18, 2001).

- CMS is providing updates to Sections 2 (HHA Systems User's Guide) and 3 (HAVEN Systems Reference Manual) of the OASIS User's Manual and also a new version of the OASIS Validation Report Messages and Description Guide (formerly called the Error Message and Description Guide) (May 31, 2001).

- For your convenience, the latest HCFA survey and certification policy memoranda, letters and instructions to state survey agencies pertaining to HHAs, as well as other provider types, are posted (June 1, 2001).

- The phone numbers on the Privacy Act Statement have changed. The new numbers are reflected on the revised Privacy Act statements. Home health agencies are encouraged to use the new numbers in their patient information. CMS has indicated agencies may download the new statements or may write the new numbers on their existing Privacy Act Statements and cross out the old phone numbers. The numbers have changed for both regular and TTY lines of both the English and Spanish version. The current numbers still transfer the caller to the new numbers, but that may change in the future (July 12, 2001).

- The OASIS Users Manual Part I Implementation Manual was revised and posted on the OASIS website at hhttp://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/usermanu.htm. We recommend that all HHAs download the April 2001 revision of Part 2 – Implementation Manual of the OASIS User's Manual. We recommend each new chapter be printed so agencies can be assured their manual is complete and accurate.

  A comparison table shows changes between the previous version (July 1999) and the revised version (April 2001). The April 2001 version is found in a zip file. To facilitate double-sided copying, blank pages were added to parts of the manual so that all chapters have an even number of pages.

- It has been called to our attention that a company which sells software for home health agencies is saying the HAVEN software will be phased out by 2002. Please be aware that this statement is not true. HAVEN is very much a viable program and CMS does not plan to discontinue its use.

- WOCN (Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society) has proposed, and CMS has accepted, language on the definitions of certain wounds. Most specifically, these definitions include:

  o M0464 – Status of Most Problematic (Observable)

Pressure Ulcer Fully granulating, early partial granulation, and non-healing

- o M0476 – Status of Most Problematic (Observable) Stasis Ulcer Fully granulating, early partial granulation, and non health
- o M0488 – Status of Most Problematic (Observable) Surgical Wound Primary intention and Secondary intention.

More information about this issue is included with the accompanying Aug. 27, 2001 memo and attachment.

HAVEN 5.1 Patch

HAVEN 5.0 is being upgraded to HAVEN 5.1 to provide the capability to print a report that emulates the OASIS forms along with the HHA's documented responses. The report contains the language of the data items for each reason for assessment type along with all the possible responses to those items, in addition to the selected responses. Previously, HAVEN users could print a report that reflected only the selected responses to the data items and nothing else. This will enable HHAs to more readily accommodate surveyor requests for a hard copy of a particular record or to satisfy any medical review requests related to payment. In addition, we are correcting a number of bugs that you reported.

This patch may be downloaded from the same site that you submit your OASIS to or by going to http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/hhnew.htm on the Internet. A full set of instructions are listed at both sites.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: An agency requested and received OBQM Reports. However, when looking over the data included they noticed that the reports reflect no cases being reported. The total is zero. How can this be?

A: It is possible for an agency to have zero cases to report. In this event, the report will reflect zero.

Information for the OBQM reports is obtained from the national database. If this is not a likely scenario for a particular agency, consider the following explanation. After investigating a few agencies with reports reflecting zero cases, it has been found that some agencies have submitted their OASIS data in one of two manners:

1. The agency is set up as a test agency in the state database; thus the production data stored on the state database was not replicated to the national database.
2. The agency submitted its OASIS data as test submission files rather than production submission files.

Although this will create "unforeseen" work for both the agency and the data processing team, it can be corrected. If an agency is set up as a test agency but should be production, correct the facility type in ASPEN. If the test facility has assessments on the state database, the QTSO Help Desk should be notified that this facility has changed from a test facility to a production facility. If the agency has submitted its "production" OASIS data as "test" submissions, these submissions must be resubmitted for processing.

Q: When the OBQM Request page displays, the latest reporting data available is 10/20/2000. Why can't I get more recent dates?

A: As described in the satellite broadcast on Jan. 19, 2001, there is a two-month "lag-time" between the current calendar month and the latest month for which date has been calculated. For example, if the current month is February 2001, the latest data available will be November 2000 (the two month "lag time" includes the complete calendar months of December and January). However, this does not mean that the data for November will be available February 1. It simply means that November data will be available during the month of February, with the exact date varying from month to month, depending on data processing. It will be expected that the calculation will be performed and the data available after the second Saturday of each month. The primary purpose of this "lag time" is simply to provide for the most accurate data reporting possible.

Current E-Mail Address

If your home health agency e-mail address changes, please notify Cheryl Stockert at cstocker@state.nd.us. Our goal is to maintain an up-to-date home health agency e-mail distribution list. Thank you.

It was recently discovered that the artist Vincent Van Gogh had many relatives? Among them were:

The ballroom dancing aunt – Tan Gogh
The sister who loved disco – Go Gogh
The bird lover uncle – Flamin Gogh
The niece who travels the country in a van – Winnie BayGogh; and
The musician/jeweler uncle – Ring Gogh!

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